



WILTON MANORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORICAL NOTES

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ARLENE LANCASTER WILTON MANORS 2018 PIONEER

By Benjamin Little and Paul A. Kuta
Wilton Manors Historical Society

Arlene LaBree Lancaster has been nominated by the Wilton Manors Historical Society to be the Wilton Manors Pioneer of the year. She will represent the City at the Broward County 44th Annual Pioneer Day in a ceremony to be held in the Town of Davie, on May 12, 2018. This honor will be recognized by the Wilton Manors City Commission at its meeting on May 8th.

As a new bride, Arlene Lancaster moved from Michigan to Wilton Manors in January 1974. She joined her husband, Duane, who had gone ahead of her for his job as a sports writer for the Sun-Sentinel newspaper and also to find housing. She and Duane have had three residences in Wilton Manors, all within a single block on the west side.

With a degree in education, Arlene had taught school in Michigan for a short period. But upon moving to Wilton Manors, she focused on her family in her early years. She became active in community affairs because of her three children, who participated in sports and other events. She served as a member and then officers of the school PTA, Mothers Council, Wilton Manors Baseball, and Wilton Manors Recreation Volunteers. She also taught Sunday school and started a pre-school program at the old Hagen Park Community Center. She likes living in Wilton Manors because of its friendly, small-town character, which reminds her of her hometown. She has fond memories of the stores on Wilton Drive and the A&W Root Beer stand at Five Points.

In 1984, Arlene returned to her passion of helping and teaching students. She worked as a teacher at the Wilton Manors Elementary School for 32 years and continues to volunteer there in her retirement as well as tutor children at the Wilton Manors Public Library. Her impact on almost two generations of students has been incalculable; and she still enjoys



being greeted by them as “Mrs. Lancaster”.

Arlene served as a City Commission-appointed member of the Wilton Manors Recreation Advisory Board for 25 years. She continues to enjoy Wilton Manors recreational facilities as an avid tennis player. She has been a member of the all-volunteer, non-profit Friends of the Wilton Manors Library for some 30 years. She currently serves as its President, providing excellent leadership to this important group.

The community of Wilton Manors – and especially its children -- have benefited greatly for 44 years because of the dedication and generosity of Arlene Lancaster—a remarkable woman!

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